GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1403
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
CBI INQUIRY AGAINST DD OFFICIALS
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have incurred heavy financial losses by providing time slots for the sponsored programmes in the DD channel in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CBI inquiry has been under progress against the alleged corruption chargeslevelled against the former Director-General and other higher officials of the Doordarshan and also against the NDTV for getting favours from the DD officials;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the NDTV has to pay the DD-I a huge sum of money in compensation for the losses incurred; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that no loss has been incurred by Doordarshan byproviding time slots for the sponsored programmes in its channels during the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. During 1998, the Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a caseagainst the then Director General, Doordarshan and other officers of Doordarshan, besides M/s. NDTV and its Managing Director Shri Pranoy Roy, on 9.1.98 under Section 120 B r/w 13(1)(d) r/w 13(2) of PC Act, 1998. It relates to certain instances of favouritism shown by Doordarshan to NDTV, in telecasting of various programmes on Doordarshan including `The World This Week` during the period 1990-96. The investigation is in progress.

(e) & (f): Doordarshan has filed a counter claim suit of Rs. 4,69,53,776/- with interest @ 18% per annum, against M/s NDTV towards the charges for telecast of some programmes produced by them, in the Hon`ble High Court of Delhi.